

Message Text

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13
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 FEA-01 OMB-01 EB-07 /066 W
----- 117482

R 161128Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2000
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 0786
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: MAHAMOOD RIAD VISITS QATAR

1. ON NOV 15 ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY MAHAMOOD RIAD STOPPED OVER IN DOHA AS PART OF VISIT TO SEVERAL GULF CAPITALS. DURING COURSE OF STAY, RIAD MET WITH THE AMIR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, AND WITH GOQ MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI. IT IS REPORTED THAT RIAD DISCUSSED WITH THESE OFFICIALS THE SITUATION IN LEBANON, THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN GENERAL, AND QUESTIONS OF ARAB UNITY, SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION. MR RIAD ALSO MADE SOME REMARKS ON THE ALLEGATIONS OF AN "AMERICAN THREAT" TO OPEC COUNTRIES NOT TO RAISE THE PRICE OF OIL AT THE DECEMBER OPEC MINISTERIAL.

2. UPON ARRIVAL AT DOHA AIRPORT, MR RIAD WAS ASKED BY THE QATARI DAILY "AL ARAB" ABOUT THE PROBLEM PRESENTLY FACING THE ARAB PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN LEBANON. HE REPLIED THAT THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS FACING THE ARAB PEACE KEEPING FORCE AND THAT THE
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WORK OF THE PEACE KEEPING FORCE COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT IN

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BUT IS BEING CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO PLANS.
HE THEN STATED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE WORK OF THE ARAB PEACE
KEEPING FORCE, PEACE WOULD COME TO LEBANON VERY SHORTLY.

3. MR RIAD WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE "AMERICAN THREAT" TO OPEC
COUNTRIES NOT TO RAISE PRICES IN DECEMBER. HE REPLIED THAT THIS
ISSUE WAS NOT AN ARAB ISSUE, AS THERE ARE OTHER THAN ARAB MEMBERS
OF OPEC JUST AS THERE ARE ARAB PETROLEUM IMPORTING COUNTRIES
AS WELL AS EXPORTING COUNTRIES; THEREFORE, THE PROBLEM OF A
PRICE INCREASE SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS JUST AN ARAB PROBLEM,
BUT AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM.

4. COMMENT: THE CONSENSUS HERE IS THAT IN ADDITION TO GENERAL
BRIEFING OF THE AMIR AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE MAIN PURPOSE
OF MR RIAD'S VISIT TO DOHA WAS TO SECURE QATAR'S PORTION OF THE
FINANCING PROMISED BY THE GOQ FOR THE ARAB PEACE KEEPING FORCE.
WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE DID NOT SUCCEED IN
SECURING THE FUNDS PROMISED BY THE GOQ.
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DOHA01218
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760427-0220
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761145/aaaabmsu.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAHAMOOD RIAD VISITS QATAR
TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, PINS, QA, LE, ARAB LEAGUE, (RIAD, MAHAMOOD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006